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# CONFERENCE *connection*

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 1, 2018

## A Message from the Moderator

Beloved members and friends of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ,

Greetings and blessings from the Board of the Directors. Galatians 6:9 (NIV) says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." The Southeast Conference Board of Directors believes and trust this scripture to be so for our Conference.

The work of the Southeast Conference continues unabated since the amicable resignation of Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi on August 17, 2018. In a spirit of transparency, it is my goal as Moderator and Board Chair to provide regular status updates and to apprise you of any notable activities during this time of transition. Look for a message from me twice a month in the conference newsletter, unless otherwise warranted by special notice.



We have previously made you aware that three neighboring Conference Ministers (Ginny Brown Daniel from Missouri Mid-South, John Vertigan from Florida, and Don Longbottom from South Central) will act as Consulting Conference Ministers to our Board of Directors and to Heather Fosburgh, our Associate Conference Minister. [You can learn more about each of the consulting ministers in an article on our website.](#)

Our work with the transition has already begun, as we recently held a virtual meeting with the Consulting Conference Ministers, Lee Albertson of

the National UCC Staff, Heather, and me. The purpose of that meeting was to plan which of the conference ministers will serve as lead liaison on individual conference needs.

Our month-to-month consulting arrangement with the Conference Ministers gives the Board breathing space to discern a plan, in consultation with our denominational leadership in Cleveland, for moving forward. The already scheduled Board of Directors retreat of September 20-22 is being reworked to give the Board more opportunity for group discernment and dialogue.

Thankfully, the work of the Conference continues. We look forward to continued growth in the Conference and the Southeast, as your leadership is currently in dialogue with a congregation in Huntsville, AL that has set a date to vote on hopefully entering covenant with SEC/UCC. That congregation's Pastor and Assistant Pastor are also seeking Privilege of Call.

As the scriptures above encourages, "let us not grow weary in doing good ..." but let's continue the good work and ministry of the Southeast Conference.

Rev. J R Finney II



The Consulting Conference Ministers who will be helping guide the Southeast Conference during our time of transition: (L-R) The Rev. Don Longbottom from South Central, The Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel from Missouri Mid-South, and The Rev. John Vertigan from Florida. [Learn more about these fine pastors on our website.](#)

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## Fall 2018 Conference Grant Applications Open

September 5 thru October 17, 2018 marks the next application cycle for Fall 2018 Conference grants. During this time congregations may apply in 3 different ways:

1. Online at [secucc.org/giving/capital-campaign-grant-application/](https://secucc.org/giving/capital-campaign-grant-application/)
2. Mailing a paper application to the Southeast Conference office
3. Emailing an electronic application to [cmoss@secucc.org](mailto:cmoss@secucc.org).



## From the Generosity Coordinator

Please allow me to share some words of support and encouragement from the United Church of Christ as we continue to support **Our Churches Wider Missions** (OCWM) and our giving initiative.

Our lesson for today, this week, this month:

Do all the good that you can,  
By all the means that you can,  
In all the ways that you can,  
In all the places that you can,  
At all the times that you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.

~John Wesley

We remain grateful for all the ways that you continue to support and be in community with us, your denomination, and for all those engaged in ministry. Your generous support is so appreciated. It is our goal that we may all live into the mantra: **"THAT WE ALL MAY BE ONE."**

Thank you all again for inviting me to your churches, your homes and for your much needed support. **We are one church, United and Uniting.**

Please invite me to your church so that we may engage in ways that we can take this journey... **TOGETHER!!!**

Carrole Moss  
Generosity Coordinator  
SECUCC  
860-655-6254



[cmoss@secucc.org](mailto:cmoss@secucc.org)



## Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2018. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2018 prayer list.](#)

### Week of September 6

- Fairfield Glade Community Church; Fairfield Glade, Tennessee
- Larry Calbert
- Reginald Holloway
- Alan Brett Roof
- Cameron Trimble

### Week of September 13

- Community Congregational UCC; Montgomery, Alabama
- Michelle Calderon
- Michelle Holtmann
- Benjamin Rose
- Herbert Turner
- Anita Louise Hauenstein

## Churches in Transition

Garden of Grace, Columbia, SC; Emmanuel, Greenville, SC; First Congregational, Birmingham, AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta, GA; Sandy Creek,



Lafayette, AL

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## Healthy Boundary Training: it's Mandatory!

As most of us are aware, Healthy Boundary Training is now **MANDATORY** in the United Church of Christ.

This training has been offered several times this year in an attempt to ensure that **ALL** clergy is trained by December 2019. The next/final training session to be offered this year (2018) will take place on **October 6th, 2018**. The location for this training is:

First Congregational UCC  
1024 Center Street, North  
Birmingham, AL 35204

All training sessions are scheduled for 9am-4pm. It is important that you arrive on time and are present for the **ENTIRE** session in order to receive your "Certificate of Completion".

Each session is \$60.00 and may be paid thru our online registration. This fee includes lunch, snacks and all workbooks and materials for the session. If you are unable to register online, please contact me or Heather Fosburg-Bardole so that we may assist you with this process.

We look forward to seeing you in Birmingham. Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings,  
Min. Carrole Moss  
Healthy Boundary Trainer

## News from our Local Congregations

### Atlanta Clergy Gather for Food and Fellowship

As part of an initiative from the Southeast Conference to form regional clergy networks, twenty Atlanta-area clergy (ordained and in-process) gathered together on Thursday, August 16 for a time of food and fellowship. Folks from Central Congregational, Kirkwood, Rush Memorial, Pilgrimage, and Virginia Highland churches spent time getting to better know one another. The group intends on planning more such gatherings.

Other parts of the Conference are invited to get together for regional clergy gatherings. One is currently being planned for October in Eastern Tennessee for our clergy in the Volunteer State. If you would like to help organize one for other parts of our widely geographically distributed Conference, please contact Heather Fosburgh.



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**The People's March for Climate and Science:  
September 8, 2018.**

After months of organizing and movement-building, the Peoples Climate Movement will bring tens of thousands of people across the country into the streets, town halls, and community forums. Joined by partners around the world, we will demand bold action on climate, jobs, and justice. Those demands will determine the future of our movement — and our world — for years to come. Brookmeade Congregational Church will be participating in the [Nashville march](#). Find other locations here: <https://peoplesclimate.org/>



## Film Festival on Climate, Sustainability, and Greening Deserts

In recognition of RISE FOR CLIMATE worldwide observance marches on September 8, 2018, Pleasant Hill Community Church/UCC will be showing the following films:

- 9:00 a.m. Lessons of the Loess Plateau:
- 10:00 a.m. Green World's Deserts & Reverse
- 10:30 a.m. The Age of Consequences

All welcome. For further information [contact Don Clark](#).

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## Celebrating Rev. Dwight D. Andrews: 40 Years of Mission, Ministry and Music

Forty years of mission, ministry, and music from The Reverend Dr. Dwight D. Andrews gives Atlanta something extraordinary to celebrate! His life and legacy -- one of the most creative, distinctive, and influential in today's ministry -- will be honored and lauded on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

**Ambassador Andrew Young** and his wife Carolyn Young, serving as the Honorary Chairpersons of the 40 Years of Mission, Ministry, and Music Gala, invite you to join them for what is sure to be a magical evening. The Mistress of Ceremonies and Hostess for the affair is **Phylicia Rashad**, star of stage and screen, and a personality who has worked on several film and theater projects with Andrews.

The gala will also feature an incredible line-up of musical performances,

dramatic readings and other exciting tributes. [More details here.](#)

## News from the Wider Church

### Church Building and Loan Fund

For over 160 years, helping build YOUR congregation through:

- Loans for new construction or remodeling
- Capital Campaign Consultations to help you determine your church's readiness to build, remodel, or expand – and then walking with you each step of the way. FREE Information meeting.
- NEW! Stewardship Campaign Consultations to help your congregation achieve its mission hopes and dreams. FREE information meeting.
- NEW! Re-purposing Consultations to help your congregation begin the process of more fully matching its assets to its mission! FREE information meeting.

And more... please [visit our website](#) to discover all the ways that we can help! I am available to assist your church in helping build its mission dreams.

[The Rev. Paul Bizer](#)

Regional Mission Interpreter, Church Building and Loan Fund  
[bizerpaul@ucc.org](mailto:bizerpaul@ucc.org)

## Training and Learning Opportunities

### Healthy Congregations Workshop in Atlanta

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is once again sponsoring another interdenominational event in Atlanta this fall, and you're invited!

- What: **Healthy Congregations**
- When: Friday evening, Nov 16, and Saturday, Nov 17, 2018
- Where: Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA
- Who: This workshop is designed to equip pastors and other church leaders with strategies to deal with anxiety and conflict within their congregations in ways that promote healing and that help the church stay focused on its unique mission and purpose.



[Learn more on our website.](#)

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## A Contemplative Approach to Spirituality & Sexuality

Among many communities, but especially faith communities, perhaps no other topic provokes such heated debate as sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Join us for this one-day workshop as we engage in healthy and honest discussions around spirituality and sexuality, with the goal of enhancing the capacity of participants (spiritual directors, laypersons, and/or clergy of any denomination or none) to discuss issues of faith and sexuality. We will not attempt to convince one another to adopt any view but rather offer a safe and sacred space to share knowledge, and to engage in open and honest dialogue. Tools will be provided for participants to engage in healthy discussion around sex, sexuality, and spirituality.

- **When:** October 4, 2018.
- **Where:** St. Mary's Sewanee, 770 St. Mary's Ln., Sewanee, TN, 37375
- **Tuition: \$129** through Sept. 5, \$160 from Sept. 6 onward. *Tuition includes breakfast and lunch.*

[More details available here.](#)

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## PATHWAYS Online Courses with CEUs

PATHWAYS Theological Education offers a variety of course for continuing education for ordained ministers, chaplains, and those in designated ministry roles. Up-coming courses for continuing education include:

- **Singing the Bible** (4 weeks for 1.5 CEU's beginning September 12)  
This course offers tips and tools for choosing music for congregational singing and ensembles that enhance the themes and stories of Biblical passages chosen for proclamation. Facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver, Interim Minister at First Church of Christ Congregational UCC in North Conway, NH (tuition: \$129)
- **Howard Thurman: Living Wisdom for God's Justice and Love** (4 weeks for 1.5 CEU's beginning September 12)  
An exploration of Thurman's three "hounds of hell" (fear, hypocrisy/deception and hatred) that track the trails of persons living with their backs against the walls – the disinherited. The Rev. Charmaine Penn Johnson, who studied Race and Religion at Candler Theological Seminary and received the Black Church Studies Prathia Hall Award, will facilitate. (tuition: \$129)

- **Practicing Our Faith in the Public Square** (6 weeks for 4 CEU's beginning October 3)  
Examines the why, how, and direction of faith-based engagement in the political life of our communities and nation. Based on her book, *Prophetic Faith: Exploring Social Justice Advocacy as a Congregation*, the course is facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Trish Greeves. (tuition: \$295)
- For members of UCC COMs and Conference Staff, a special section of **Professional Boundaries and Ministerial Self-Care** (6 weeks for 4 CEU's beginning October 3).  
Facilitated by the Rev. Vicki Wunsch, Director of Leadership and Development for the Minnesota Conference, this course explores professional ethics for clergy, including the development of an ethical paradigm, state requirements for the mandatory reporting of abuse, relational boundaries, financial management, and social media self-disclosure. This course is free for members of COMs and Conference Staff.

For more information or to register for any of these courses visit: [www.PATHWAYS-UCC.org](http://www.PATHWAYS-UCC.org). Or email PATHWAYS at [info@pathwaystheological.org](mailto:info@pathwaystheological.org).

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